

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

DISCUSSION GUIDES

EVERY MONDAY

Discussion Guide

Sunday Sermon 8.23.26



The Riches of Grace

Part 2: Peace With God

This guide is designed to help your family or group take what was taught on Sunday and move from simply hearing the information to applying it in ways that build up and encourage one another. Feel free to adjust the depth and number of questions based on your time and the size of your group.

Access the Sermon on the Website & App:

[Click Here](#)



Overview

This session explores what it means to have peace with God through justification by faith. The sermon draws from Romans 5 to help believers understand why peace with God was necessary, what God did to make it possible, and how that peace should shape the way we live every single day.

Key Takeaways

- Being justified by faith means being declared righteous before God -- not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done on our behalf.
 - Before Christ, every person stands in a position of hostility and enmity toward God, not merely distance from him.
 - God took the initiative to make peace possible. The offended party absorbed the cost so that the offending party could be reconciled.
 - Peace with God is a permanent standing, not a feeling that rises and falls with circumstances or emotions.
 - Possessing the knowledge of how a person can enter peace with God carries with it a responsibility to share that truth with others.
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Discussion Questions

Opening

1. The sermon opens with the observation that when people are asked what they most want in life, the answers -- happiness, security, success, health, financial freedom -- often reflect a deeper longing for peace. Do you agree with that assessment? What has your own experience taught you about what you most deeply want?
2. The pastor described how the enemy uses busyness and distraction to keep believers from stopping to appreciate what they have in Christ. How have you personally experienced that in your own life?

Digging Into the Text

3. Romans 5:1 describes peace with God as something believers already possess through Jesus Christ. How does it change your perspective to think of peace with God as a settled fact rather than something you are still working toward or hoping to maintain?

4. The sermon draws a sharp distinction between being merely distant from God and being an enemy of God. Read Colossians 1:21 and Ephesians 2:3 on your own this week and reflect on what it means to have been hostile toward God before coming to faith. Why is it important for believers to keep that reality in mind?
5. Romans 5:8 describes Christ dying for us while we were still sinners. The pastor pointed out that God did not wait for his enemies to become his friends before acting. What does that tell you about the nature of God's love and the character of the gospel?
6. The pastor used the illustration of being seriously wronged by another person and then choosing to personally absorb the cost of reconciliation rather than demanding the offender make it right. How does that illustration help you understand what God did through Christ? Where does it fall short?
7. The sermon makes the point that real peace does not come by ignoring the offense -- someone has to deal with the wrong. How does understanding that God's justice was fully satisfied at the cross deepen your appreciation for the peace you now have with him?

Personal Reflection

8. The pastor challenged the group with this question: Is the enemy playing a game with you, pointing you toward relationships, money, or circumstances to find peace -- and is he winning? Take a moment to answer that honestly. Where are you most tempted to look for peace outside of your relationship with God?
9. The sermon raised the question of what our calendars and checkbooks reveal about what we truly worship. Without getting into specific numbers, what do those things say about your priorities right now? Is there anything that needs to change?
10. The pastor stated that peace with God is a fact before it is a feeling. Have you ever found yourself in a season where you were seeking the feeling of peace while losing sight of the fact of peace? What helped you, or what do you think would help you, return to resting in that truth?

Mission and Responsibility

11. The sermon closes with a strong challenge about the believer's obligation to share the gospel. The pastor compared knowing how a person can enter peace with God to possessing something greater than a cure for a deadly disease. Do you genuinely believe that? What gets in the way of living as though you do?

12. The pastor said, "When you personally get excited about Jesus, you are going to talk about him to people, period." Is that true in your life right now? If your excitement about Jesus has grown cold, what do you think has contributed to that, and what might help rekindle it?
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Practical Applications

This week, choose at least one of the following to put into practice:

- Set aside five to ten minutes each morning to deliberately reflect on the fact that you are at peace with God -- not because of your performance, but because of the finished work of Christ. Let that reality shape how you approach the rest of your day.
 - Identify one person in your life who does not yet have peace with God. Pray for that person by name every day this week and ask God to open a door for a meaningful conversation.
 - Before your group meets again, read Romans 5:1-11 slowly and in full. Write down one phrase or truth from that passage that you want to carry with you, and be ready to share it with the group.
 - If you have been looking to a relationship, a circumstance, or a material thing to provide the peace that only God can give, bring that honestly before God in prayer this week. Ask him to redirect your heart toward the peace that is already yours in Christ.
 - If you are preparing for the Lord's Supper, use that time intentionally. Rather than going through the motions, come prepared to reflect specifically on what it cost God to bring you from being his enemy to being declared righteous and at peace with him.
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Closing Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying together along these lines:

- Thank God for taking the initiative to make peace when we were his enemies.
- Ask for hearts that do not grow so familiar with the gospel that it stops being amazing.
- Pray for specific people in your lives who do not yet have peace with God.
- Ask God to stir a genuine desire in your group to share this truth with the world around you.